

## **Cass Davenport Historic District**

General boundaries: Davenport, Cass, Martin Luther King Blvd., alleys east and west of Cass.

Local  
State  
State Marker  
National            v            9/22/97



3527 Cass Ave.            Wayne Court Apts.



### **Historic overview:**

The Cass-Davenport Historic District includes architecturally significant apartment buildings that together reflect the apartment building design in Detroit between 1915 and 1930. The district, now surrounded by vacant land, conveys the scale, massing, craftsmanship and materials of the first and second phase of apartment buildings constructed in this area.

The Davenport Apartment Building and Chesterfield Apartments were constructed during the first phase. The small-scale buildings originally contained a low number of spacious apartments, and architectural elements were incorporated into the structural design of the building. These buildings reflect the aesthetic and living requirements of the primarily upper and upper-middle class residents in the early twentieth century.

With the advent of the automobile, Detroit became the fastest growing city in the United States. This rapid growth created a massive housing demand in the city, which was met with the construction of the second phase apartment buildings. The Cass-Davenport area, because of its proximity to downtown Detroit, transportation routes and jobs, became a place to fulfill temporary and transient housing needs. Constructed in 1924, the Aderna Court and Naomi Apartments are large scale, with a high density of apartment units including one-room efficiencies and two to four room suites. Side and rear elevations were utilitarian in design as adjacent buildings hid these from view. Tenants of these buildings were typically working class residents. Together, the Cass-Davenport buildings express the change in apartment building design in Detroit.

